

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

The term "the transfer destination" in claim 7 on page 42 at line 18 lacks proper antecedent basis. The examiner suggests replacing "the transfer destination" with "the selected transfer destination."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0033964), hereinafter referenced as Suzuki.

Regarding claim 1, Suzuki discloses a print system (11) with a scanner (12) and plurality of image output units at paragraph [0094], and exhibited in figure 1, which

reads on claimed "image forming apparatus including a scanner engine and an operation panel." Suzuki further discloses a display panel (12B) provided with the scanner (12), which functions as a user interface for displaying a screen having a plurality of icons and is for inputting data by touching one of the icons displayed at paragraph [0095], and exhibited in figure 2, which reads on claimed "display part for displaying a selection screen for selecting a transfer destination of scanned data from among a plurality of transfer destinations on the operation panel." Suzuki further discloses a controller (12C) for controlling the scanner as a whole at paragraph [0095], and exhibited in figure 2, which reads on claimed "scanning process part for causing the scanner engine to scan a document to produce scanned data." Suzuki further discloses that the controller transmits the printing job through the network to at least one of the image output devices at paragraph [0013], which reads on claimed "transfer part for transferring the scanned data to one or more selected transfer destinations."

Regarding claim 2, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1); in addition, Suzuki discloses a document data storage connected to a network at paragraph [0041]; a user storing document data with the server (14, exhibited in figure 1) acting as a WWW server at paragraph [0168]; and the image being output as an electronic mail at paragraph [0232], which reads on claimed "one or more selected transfer destinations" including "one or more of a storing area on a WEB server on a network, a mail destination, and a shared storing area on a network."

Regarding claim 3, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 2); in addition, Suzuki discloses a displayed control screen and administration

control screen for inputting user and document data information at paragraphs [0044] and [0046], wherein a user can perform an outputting routine via transmission of a registration ID at paragraph [0052], which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus," wherein, "if authentication information is required for accessing the storing area or the shared storing area, the display part displays a screen for inputting the authentication information when the storing area or the shared storing area is selected."

Regarding claim 4, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1); in addition, Suzuki discloses the display panel (12B, exhibited in figure 2) having a plurality of icons corresponding to output formats at paragraph [0095] and memory (12D, exhibited in figure 2) storing programs for processing routines at paragraph [0096], including a step 178 (exhibited in figure 7B) of output format inputted from the control screen and image data read from the scanner unit (12A, exhibited in figure 2) being transmitted to the server (14, exhibited in figure 1) at paragraph [0125], which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus" wherein "the display part displays a screen for selecting a data type of scanned data to be transferred among from a plurality of data types, and the transfer part converts the scanned data into data of the data type, and transfers the data of the data type."

Regarding claim 5, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 4); in addition, Suzuki discloses a step 176 (exhibited in figure 7B) where a series of image data are read as common image data and are stored as electronic data at paragraph [0125], which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus," wherein "the

plurality of data types include a type of recognized data that is obtained by performing character recognition process on the scanned data."

Regarding claim 6, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 5); in addition, Suzuki discloses the output format inputted from the control screen and the image data read from the scanner unit (12A) being transmitted to the server (14) at paragraph [0125], and exhibited in figures 1 and 2, which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus," wherein, "when the recognized data is selected as a data type, the transfer part sends the recognized data and the scanned data to a transfer destination."

Regarding claim 7, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1); in addition, Suzuki discloses routines at paragraphs [0132] and [0134], and exhibited in figure 6B and figure 5, where, after receiving the image data from the scanner (12) at the server (14), the printer (16), exhibited in figure 1, prints, which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus further comprising a print process part for receiving the scanned data from a storing area of the transfer destination and printing the scanned data."

Regarding claim 8, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7); in addition, Suzuki discloses a print control screen display instructed from the display panel (12B) of the scanner (12), exhibited in figure 1 and figure 2, at [0113], where printing is instructed at paragraph [0123], and exhibited in figure 7A, which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus," wherein "the print process part displays, on the

operation panel, a data selection screen for displaying a list of scanned data stored in the storing area, and prints scanned data selected from the list."

Regarding claim 9, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1); in addition, Suzuki discloses processing routines executed by the respective controllers of the scanner, the server and the printer, where the processing routines are divided into individual routines for attribute information registering, control screen displaying, print instructing and printing at paragraph [0106], and exhibited in figure 5 to figure 7B, which reads on claimed "image forming apparatus further comprising hardware resources used for image forming processes, and control services that perform processes of the system side including control of the hardware resources according to a request from an application, wherein the image forming apparatus is configured so as to be able to install a plurality of applications separately from the control services, and the image forming apparatus includes the scanning process part, the display part and the transfer part as an application."

Regarding claims 10-18, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claims 1-9); in addition, claims 10-18 are inherent to claims 1-9 because they describe the process for implementing the structure of claims 1-9. Therefore, claims 10-18 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Suzuki.

Regarding claims 19 and 20, Suzuki discloses everything claimed as applied above (see claims 1-18); furthermore, claims 19 and 20 disclose a computer program and computer readable medium, which are obvious variations of the apparatus and method rejected in claims 1-18 above. Therefore, claims 19 and 20 are rejected.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mariama Orange whose telephone number is (571) 270-3577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:30am-3:00pm ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jefferey Harold can be reached on (571) 272-7519. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jefferey F Harold/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4115